

VZCZCXRO9170
PP RUEHFK RUEHKS0 RUEHNAG RUEHNH
DE RUEHKO #1387 1420211
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 210211Z MAY 08
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4424
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/USFJ PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 7920
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 0302
RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 6232
RUEHKS0/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 8511
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 1601
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 3465
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 2308
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 9466
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 9923
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS TOKYO 001387

SIPDIS

STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OIIP](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [JA](#)

SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - CHINA-TAIWAN RELATIONS

¶1. LEAD STORIES: Lead items on Wednesday morning included earnings reports compiled by Japan's top banks pointing to a loss of more than 900 billion yen in connection with the U.S. subprime loan crisis.

¶2. "Maintaining Status-Quo Is Wise Choice" On the inauguration of Taiwan President Ma, the liberal Asahi editorialized (5/21): "In his inauguration address yesterday, Taiwan President Ma emphasized his policy of maintaining the status-quo vis-`-vis China by saying that he would adopt the principle of no unification, no independence, and on use of force. He apparently hoped to make this stance very clear.... Ensuring stable cross-strait relations would bring positive effects on the U.S., Japan, and other neighboring countries. We want China and Taiwan to become ambitious in easing military tensions through enhanced dialogue."

¶3. "President Ma Should Call on China to Adopt Democracy" The business-oriented Nikkei insisted (5/21): "Taiwanese President Ma expressed his strong resolve to seize the 'historic momentum' for resuming dialogue with China, which has been suspended since ¶1999. This call should be taken positively, as it would help stabilize the relationship between Beijing and Taipei.... With Taiwan having adopted a direct election for its president in 1996, democracy appears to have been taking root there. President Ma is called upon to press China to democratize itself from the viewpoint of protecting human rights."

¶4. "New President Must Make Utmost Efforts to Ensure Peaceful Cross-Strait Ties" The liberal Tokyo Shimbun argued (5/21): "In an attempt to resume dialogue with

China, President Ma is asking Beijing for a 'truce' to a diplomatic war of courting countries into their respective camps. It is high time for China to demonstrate its superpower status to respond positively to Ma's approach."

SCHIEFFER